



JANUARY 2014



SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL

This Month in the Council



The citizens of San Diego count on us to be prepared in the event of a disaster. We as the San Diego Healthcare Disaster Council and support services proudly accept this challenge

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Each month at the Healthcare Disaster Council, disaster preparedness professionals come together for in-depth, passionate dialogue about a range of topics. Here's a glimpse at some of the discussion in December:

- HPP State midyear reports, budget formats and Capabilities Planning Guide.
- OES Disaster Plan for special needs assistance and their care givers.
- Partnership lead and check list projects due by May 16, 2014.
- International Association of Healthcare Security and Safety (IHASS) meeting on flight of fight patient security.
- November 21, 2013 Statewide Healthcare Exercise after action report review. Report due to the County by February 3, 2014.
- CHA Conference in Sacramento will be September 22-24, 2014.

Trainings and Drills

Joint EOC / WebEOC Workshops

Agenda:

9:00 - 10:30: SEMS/NIMS Introduction
10:30 - 11:30: WebEOC Overview
11:30 - 12:30: WebEOC Subject Specific
12:30 - 1:30: Lunch (on your own)
1:30 - 4:30: EOC Section Specific

Available Dates:

January 30, 2014 (Logistics Section)
March 27, 2014 (Operations Section)
July 17, 2014 (Planning-Intel Section)
September 25, 2014 (Finance Section)

Registration is available via email at: WebEOC@sdcounty.ca.gov. Please include your contact information and specify which *dates* and which *segments* you would like to attend.



SAN DIEGO HEALTHCARE DISASTER COUNCIL



This Month's Focus

Serving Those Who Bore the Battle

Robert L. West

Veterans Administration Medical Center

The VA San Diego Healthcare System's (VASDHS) Emergency Management Program is part of the Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Health Administration (VHA) under the Office of Emergency Management and is responsible for the mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery from natural and man-made disasters and/or emergencies. VASDHS is part of the Southern California and Southern Nevada region (VISN 22) medical facilities which includes Greater Los Angeles, Long Beach, Loma Linda, and Las Vegas. These sister facilities provide emergency support and coordination when needed.

VASDHS provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient health care for more than 75,000 eligible Veterans in San Diego and Imperial Valley counties. VASDHS includes the medical center in La Jolla as well as six clinics located throughout the county (Chula Vista, Escondido, Imperial Valley, Mission Valley, Oceanside and Mission Gorge). The San Diego VA provides medical, surgical, mental health, geriatric, spinal cord injury, and advanced rehabilitation services.

VASDHS has a multidisciplinary Emergency Management Committee that helps us meet the needs of patients, staff, visitors, and our community through education, resource allocation, and organizational management. The committee also plans and organizes exercises and drills for the VASDHS to address improvements and lessons learned for future events. The committee is Chaired by the VASDHS' Emergency Manager and is supported through the Environment of Care Committee and an Executive Champion.

The top hazards identified for VASDHS are routinely reviewed and updated to indicate the highest levels of impact and disruption of services. Our top three vulnerabilities are Earthquake, Wildfire, and Pandemic/Epidemic.

During an event that could cause significant loss of life, property or impact the environment, VASDHS activates its Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and mobilizes its Hospital Incident Command System (HICS) Leadership Team and Disaster Response Team (DRT). The HICS Leadership Team is made up of Command, Operations, Logistics, Planning, and Financial staff working together with our community partners to affectively meet the challenges of unplanned and planned events. The VASDHS has pre-identified trained staff that fill primary, secondary and tertiary roles during a disaster, which helps ensure proper patient and staff needs are addressed and that continuity of services are provided for the duration of the incident(s). The DRT are VASDHS staff members who assume an emergency response role in our Decontamination Team, Floor Captain Program, Family and Pet Reception, and Operations Support.

VASDHS is entrusted to provide the best possible care for our Military Veterans and that does not end during a disaster/emergency. Our Veterans and staff count on us to be here and provide assistance as evident in the 2003/2007 Wildfires, the September 2011 power outage and other disruptions of care. We have developed several programs and procedures to meet the challenges we may face. These include redundant communication systems for both internal and external alert notification and operational readiness, wheel-chair and litter ready dual use buses equipped with medical supplies, a mobile command vehicle system, shelter in place pods, and family/pet reception teams.

The VA also has a fourth mission, which is to serve as principal health care backup to the Department of Defense in the event of war or national emergency. As resources are stretched to meet community demands the VASDHS may be called upon to provide critical services to other VA Medical Centers, the DoD, emergency responders and our community at large.

With constant readiness and preparedness, we as an organization, will be capable of providing continued care and build our resiliency to address any adverse event we encounter.

For more information about VA San Diego Healthcare System: www.sandiego.va

